

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12-16, 18-20 and 22 as follows:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a rodent infestation comprising:
taking a sample from a surface upon which a urinary protein has been deposited or over which a rodent has putatively travelled or both;
performing an assay to detect the presence of the urinary protein in the sample;
and
detecting a rodent infestation based upon for the presence of the urinary protein detected in the sample proteins from rodents on a surface over which a rodent has putatively travelled and on which urinary proteins may have been deposited.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the urinary protein is a proteins are Major Urinary Protein Proteins from mice.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the major urinary protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4 as defined by Genbank Accession Numbers X00907, M16355, M16356 or X00908 and functional derivatives thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the urinary protein is a proteins are α2u globulin globulins from rats.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein performing an assay to detect the presence of the urinary protein in the sample further comprises the presence of urinary proteins from rodents is detected by utilising antibodies raised against the urinary protein in an immunoassay.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 wherein the antibodies comprise primary antibodies which bind to the urinary protein and secondary antibodies which are associated with a detectable signal and also bind to the primary antibody.
18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein taking a sample from a surface further comprises taking a swab sample samples are taken from the surface, and performing an assay to detect the presence of the urinary protein in the sample further comprises detecting the presence of urinary proteins detected on the swab swabs.
19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein a nitrocellulose membrane is laid on the surface and the presence of urinary proteins is detected on the membrane.
20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein a substratum is laid over the surface and left for a time to allow rodents to move over, or in the vicinity of, the substratum; and the presence of urinary proteins is detected on the substratum.
21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20 wherein the substratum is a sheet or tile.
22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20 wherein a nitrocellulose membrane is laid over the substratum, tile or sheet and the presence of urinary proteins is detected on the membrane.